

but after a few weeks, the Turks were forced to retreat. Kolokotronis is a revered Greek leader, because he embodied the hopes and dreams of the common man, while displaying extraordinary courage and moral fiber in the face of overwhelming odds.

Athanasios Diakos was another legendary hero, a priest, a patriot, and a soldier. He led 500 of his men in a noble stand against 8,000 Ottoman soldiers. Diakos' men were wiped out and he fell into the enemy's hands, where he was severely tortured before his death. He is the image of a Greek who gave all for love of faith and homeland. While individual acts of bravery and leadership are often noted, the Greek Revolution was remarkable for the bravery and fortitude displayed by the typical Greek citizen. This heroic ideal of sacrifice and service is best demonstrated through the story of the Suliotes, villagers who took refuge from Turkish authorities in the mountains of Epiros. The fiercely patriotic Suliotes bravely fought the Turks in several battles. News of their victories spread throughout the region and encouraged other villages to revolt. The Turkish Army acted swiftly and with overwhelming force to quell the Suliote uprising.

The Suliote women were alone as their husbands battled the Turks at the front. When they learned that Turkish troops were fast approaching their village, they began to dance the Syrtos, a patriotic Greek dance. One by one, rather than face torture or enslavement at the hands of the Turks, they committed suicide by throwing themselves and their children off Mount Zalongo. They chose to die rather than surrender their freedom.

The sacrifice of the Suliotes was repeated in the Arkadi Monastery of Crete. Hundreds of noncombatants, mainly the families of the Cretan freedom fighters, had taken refuge in the monastery to escape Turkish reprisals. The Turkish army was informed that the Monastery was used by the Cretan freedom fighters as an arsenal for their war material, and they set out to seize it. As the Turkish troops were closing in, the priest gathered all the refugees in the cellar around him. With their consent, he set fire to the gunpowder kegs stored there, killing all but a few. The ruins of the Arkadi Monastery, like the ruins of our Alamo, still stand as a monument to liberty.

News of the Greek revolution met with widespread feelings of compassion in the United States. The Founding Fathers eagerly expressed sentiments of support for the fledgling uprising. Several American Presidents, including James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, conveyed their support for the revolution through their annual messages to Congress. William Harrison, our ninth president, expressed his belief in freedom for Greece, saying: "We must send our free will offering. 'The Star-spangled Banner' must wave in the Aegean . . . a messenger of fraternity and friendship to Greece."

Various Members of Congress also showed a keen interest in the Greeks' struggle for autonomy. Henry Clay, who in 1825 became Secretary of State, was a champion of Greece's fight for independence. Among the most vocal was Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, who frequently roused the sympathetic interest of his colleagues and other Americans in the Greek revolution.

It should not surprise us that our Founding Fathers would express such keen support for Greek independence, for they themselves had

been inspired by the ancient Greeks in their own struggle for freedom. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "To the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves . . . American colonists, out of gothic darkness." Our two nations share a brotherhood bonded by the common blood of democracy, birthed by Lady Liberty, and committed to the ideal that each individual deserves the right of self-determination.

We all know that the price of liberty can be very high—history is replete with the names of the millions who have sacrificed for it. Many great scholars throughout history warned that we maintain democracy only at great cost. The freedom we enjoy today is due to a large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past—in Greece, in America, and all over the world.

I recount these stories because they pay homage to Greece's absolute commitment to freedom and liberty and the common bonds which we share. Unfortunately, our devotion to the principle of freedom is not shared by many people whose interests are better served by applying oppression to their own people and spreading terrors elsewhere.

Freedom is America's heart. It is central to our being, and from the beginning we have recognized that freedom is not just an American right. It is a God-given right to every citizen of the world.

We must not overlook those who are still fighting for their independence in other parts of the world, such as in the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey still illegally occupies Cyprus, as it has since its invasion in 1974. Finding a fair resolution for Cyprus will help stabilize a region marked more often by conflict than accord.

As with so many international issues, U.S. leadership is essential to urge Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders toward peace. One year after United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed his plan as a basis for negotiations between the Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots, the Turkish Cypriot leadership finally agreed to restart the negotiations. The proposed plan aims at reuniting the island under a government of shared power and having the united island admitted to the European Union on May 1, 2004. This is a vision worthy of our attention and full support because it has the potential to end the illegitimate division of Cyprus, improve the relations between Turkey and Greece and promote stability in the sensitive region of Eastern Mediterranean.

We must never forget that freedom must be constantly guarded. It is a noble but fragile thing that can be stolen or snuffed out if not protected. We cannot take for granted that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. We enjoy our freedom only because we have been willing to fight and die for it, just like our forefathers and the valiant Greeks in 1821.

Mr. Speaker, on this 183rd birthday of Greek Independence, when we celebrate the restoration of democracy to the lands of its conception, we also celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and the strength of man's will. The goals and values that people of Greece share with the people of the United States reaffirm our common democratic heritage. This occasion also serves to remind us that we must never take for granted the right to determine our own fate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the special order time of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

POLICING REFORMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, last week the Helsinki Commission, also known as the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held a hearing on the issue of policing in Northern Ireland. I want to commend the commission for holding this hearing on this timely issue and to add my voice to a growing list of influential individuals who have called on the British Government to reform the police service of Northern Ireland.

Madam Speaker, 6 years ago this month, the people of Northern Ireland, Great Britain, and the Republic of Ireland entered into a peace agreement, commonly referred to as the Good Friday Agreement. This legendary accord set out a framework that would allow Northern Ireland to govern itself and provide for a rule of law that was responsible to all people in the north of Ireland. Unfortunately, 6 years later, much of the agreement has either been stalled, derailed, or simply never implemented.

Most notably, the one issue that the British Government has refused to address after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement is that of police reform. For a true and lasting peace to exist in Northern Ireland, reforming the police service is a must.

Madam Speaker, the Good Friday Agreement gave the people of Northern Ireland great hope that they would see a change in the way policing is handled. Soon after the agreement was signed, the British Government commissioned Christopher Patten to review the police service in Northern Ireland. The Patten Commission spent months researching past abuses by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Eventually they recommended several reforms to policing in Northern Ireland, including the end of the "Special Branch" of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and also to begin a program that would recruit ethnic and religious minorities into the police service and create a process of civil review.

While the Patten Commission recommendations did not address all of the policing issues in Northern Ireland, they were a good starting point. Unfortunately, to date, Great Britain has not instituted any of these reforms.

Policing in Northern Ireland is not only an issue of fairness but also of basic human rights. Following the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, the British Government dissolved the Royal Ulster Constabulary and replaced it officially with the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, this new police service is the same old, same old, with a new fancy name. What we really find when we look below the surface of its new name is that the Police Service of Northern Ireland is no more representative or fair than the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland remains unrepresented of the communities it polices. There are presently over 9,000 members. However, as of October, 2003, only 11.6 percent are Catholic while nearly one-half of all residents of Northern Ireland call themselves Catholic.

And the Police Service has also refused to stop using plastic bullets. Patten recommended research into alternatives to these inhumane policing tools and the rapid withdrawal of their use, and the British Government also gave a commitment to replace plastic bullets by the end of 2003. But today plastic bullets continue to be used by the police service.

The people of Northern Ireland do not feel safe and rarely rely on their public police services. Citizens are not calling the Police Service of Northern Ireland when they need assistance. They are afraid that the police will violate their rights rather than protect them in their time of need.

Madam Speaker, I call on Prime Ministers Blair and Ahern to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and immediately institute the Patten Commission's recommendations. For a lasting peace to survive in Northern Ireland, the Good Friday Agreement must be given the chance to fully succeed.

Unfortunately, the peace process cannot move forward. A small faction of individuals in Northern Ireland, many who are adamantly opposed to the accords, are holding the future of the peace agreement hostage. They have been successful in influencing the British Government to put the agreement and the power-sharing government on hold and therefore putting the Good Friday Agreement and the fragile peace in a very dangerous position.

Most recently these opponents have convinced Britain not to seek the new Belfast Assembly, even though elections were held 4 months ago. These elections, which saw record turnouts, were finally held this past November. However, to date, Prime Minister Blair has refused to reinstitute the Belfast Assembly.

Madam Speaker, as one can easily observe, the peace in Northern Ireland

is hanging by a thread. Prime Minister Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern must bring all sides back to the table and reinstitute the Belfast Assembly.

Peace in Northern Ireland is finally within our grasp. The parties involved, which all signed those historic accords some 6 years ago, must now just live up to the agreement and allow the people of Northern Ireland to govern themselves freely and fairly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1900

CREATING JOBS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.) Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, in response to growing concern that many of our good jobs are being sent overseas, a number of our colleagues have offered proposals to restrict the practice of offshoring. The idea, I suppose, is that by restricting the ability of Americans to freely invest and compete in the worldwide markets, we can somehow save jobs here at home.

One of these proposals, offered by the senior Senator from Connecticut, was recently adopted in the other body in the form of an amendment to the international corporate tax reform bill. This proposal would permanently prohibit American companies that off-shore any of their work from ever doing business with the Federal Government. This restriction would also extend State projects that use any Federal dollars.

Another example is the Senate minority leader's Jobs For Americans Act, which is cosponsored by Senator and presumed Democratic Presidential nominee JOHN KERRY.

Before off-shoring any work that was previously done in the United States, this legislation would require companies, big and small, to disclose how many jobs would be affected, where

those jobs would be going, and why they were being off-shored. Companies would also be required to give employees 3 months' advance notice, as well as notify all Federal and State agencies responsible for helping laid-off workers.

Now, Madam Speaker, we are all concerned about jobs for Americans. We are very concerned about jobs for Americans. And since these anti-offshoring initiatives are clearly intended to save jobs, I believe we should take a careful, serious look at their potential impact on the health of our economy, an economy that is currently growing, and we just got the news today, at a rate of 4.1 percent, creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs in recent months, and witnessing nearly 1 million new business start-ups every single year.

The good news is that we do not have to try to calculate what would happen if we were to adopt any of these measures. We can benefit from the wisdom of French and German policymakers, who adopted well-meaning job preservation techniques long ago. All we have to do is take a look at their economies and determine if we want similar results.

Let us look at France first. Under French labor law, employers must notify workers of impending layoffs at least 6 weeks in advance. Under certain circumstances, this notification period must be much longer, as much as 9 months in some cases. Other employee rights include a hearing in order to fight the layoff and a substantial severance package.

So with all these regulations and so-called worker protections, France must be a worker's paradise. French jobs must be eminently secure, right?

Well, it is obviously not the case. For years, French unemployment has persistently hung around the 10 percent level. In 2002, it dipped as low as 9.2 percent, but it has since crawled back up to 9.5 percent, and it continues to climb. And the French economy overall is not faring much better than French workers are. Last year, GDP growth was a paltry 1.8 percent, and French Government analysts are predicting even weaker growth for this year, 2004.

Germany has labor laws that are very similar to France's. Employers must give workers notice of layoffs between 1 and 7 months in advance, depending on how long a worker has been with a company. Employees can challenge any layoff in court and obtain preliminary injunctions, allowing them to remain on the job until their cases are decided.

But despite these job preservation regulations, German unemployment, just like in France, is frighteningly high. Since the late 1990s, unemployment in Germany has hovered just above 8 percent and has steadily climbed over the past year. In 2003, it inched up from 9 percent to 9.2 percent and continues to climb. Growth is also very weak, hovering below 2 percent for the past several years.